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# The Urban District of Kirkham



## Annual Health Report for the Year 1960

Medical Officer of Health:

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.(Edin.).

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Councillor T. A. Ruxton (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. D. G. M. Sanderson

Councillor T. Ward, J.P.

Councillor R. Lavelle

Councillor J. Whiteside

Councillor Mrs. O. Mayers

Councillor O. Aiken

Councillor H. Jones

Councillor J. Whiteside (Woodlands) J.P.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

Medical Officer of Health :

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk : N. Swift, A.C.C.S.

Pupil Public Health Inspector : B. D. Rogerson



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# Annual Health Report

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1960

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To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham  
Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1960.

Speaking generally the health of the Urban District has been satisfactory. There have only been 25 cases of notifiable infectious disease brought to the notice of the department. There was nothing that could be termed more than seasonal in the way of acute catarrhal infections and influenza. Turning to the vital statistics, there was a slight fall in the birth rate, but quite a considerable fall (from 13.3 per thousand to 10.0 per thousand) in the death rate. There were no deaths of infants under one year of age during the year and no maternal deaths. In 1959 we had a bad year with 5 infant deaths of which I analysed the causes in my report.

The Staff of the Department has had no change and to them all I owe thanks for their ready and regular co-operation. To you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Health Committee I am grateful for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

C. ROBERTSON WILSON

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) .....	940
Home Population .....	4,670
(at the 1951 census the population was 6,874 The home population in 1959 was 4,660).	
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/60 .....	1,464
Rateable value at 31/12/60 .....	£51,176
Amount produced by a penny rate .....	£208

## VITAL STATISTICS

Births—59 live births (41 males and 18 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 12.6 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 13.6 per 1,000 in 1959. Illegitimate live births totalled 6.7% of total live births.

Stillbirths—There were 3 stillbirths during the year making a stillbirth rate of 48.4 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 14.3 in 1959.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 62.

Deaths—43 deaths (21 males and 22 females) were registered during the year. The death rate at 10.0 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 13.3 per 1,000 in 1959.

Infantile Mortality—No deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 5 in 1959.

The neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) was nil.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was nil.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—Number of deaths nil. Rate per 1,000 total live and still births nil.

## CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1960.

Cause of death	M	F	T
Malignant neoplasm, lung .....	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm ...	5	1	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	6	5	11
Coronary disease, angina .....	4	3	7
Other heart diseases .....	2	1	3
Other circulatory diseases .....	2	—	2
Bronchitis .....	1	2	3
Congenital Malformations .....	1	—	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases .....	—	6	6
All other accidents .....	—	1	1
Suicide .....	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war .....	—	1	1
	21	22	43



The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years :

Year	England and Wales		Kirkham Urban District	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1956 .....	15.7	11.7	15.7	11.0
1957 .....	16.1	11.5	18.0	14.0
1958 .....	16.4	11.7	12.8	12.9
1959 .....	16.5	11.6	13.6	13.3
1960 .....	17.1	11.5	12.6	10.0

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:—

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Other appointments held : Medical Officer of Health Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde, Preesall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Hospital Facilities—For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities—The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles from the Wesham Ambulance Station.

Laboratory Facilities—Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories attached to Preston Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home—General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

Venereal Disease Service—Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics—A County Council Clinic is located in Moor Street and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows :

Monday, a.m.—Minor Ailments Clinic.

Monday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

Monday, a.m. and p.m.—Speech Therapy.

Tuesday, p.m.—Audiometric (alternate Tuesdays).

Wednesday, p.m.—Chiropody.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

Thursday, a.m.—Immunisation (third Thursday in each month).

Thursday, a.m.—Minor Ailments.

Thursday, a.m.—Vaccination (third Thursday in each month).

Thursday, p.m.—Child Welfare Clinic.

Friday, p.m.—Ante Natal (alternate Fridays).

Friday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the numbers of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1960.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified												
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year											
		1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever .....	8				2	1	3	2					
Whooping Cough .....	8		1	1		2	4						
Acute Poliomyelitis —													
Paralytic .....													
,, Non-Paralytic ...													
Measles (excluding Rubella)	5		1	1	1	1	1						
Diphtheria .....													
Dysentery .....	2							1	1				
Meningococcal Infection ...													
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...													
Acute Pneumonia													
(Prim. and Infl'zal) ...	1							1					
Smallpox .....													
Acute Encephalitis—Infec-													
tive .....													
,, Post-Infectious													
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...													
Paratyphoid Fevers .....													
Erysipelas .....													
Food Poisoning .....	1	1											
Puerperal Pyrexia .....													
Other notifiable diseases ...													
TOTAL .....	25	1	2	2	3	4	8	2	2	1	0	0	0



# TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

## New Cases and Mortality during 1960.

		—New Cases—				——Deaths——			
		Non		Non		Non		Non	
		Pulmon'y		Pulmon'y		Pulmon'y		Pulmon'y	
Age Periods		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1		0		0		0	

In 1959 there was 1 new case notified, and 0 deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health  
Committee, Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second annual report  
on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1960.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The following are the numbers of closets, ashpits, dustbins, etc.

Water Closets .....	1,600
Waste Water Closets .....	2
Pail Closets .....	1
Privy Closets .....	0
Privy Ashpits .....	0
Dry Ashpits .....	0
Dustbins .....	1,650
Cesspools .....	0
Septic Tanks .....	15
Houses not connected directly to sewer .....	33
Houses on Water Carriage System .....	1,464
Percentage of Closets on Water Carriage System	99.99
Percentage of Houses connected to General Sewage System .....	97.79

Sewers and Sewerage System—The sewerage, in conjunction  
with that from Wesham, runs to tanks at Newton and then into  
the River Ribble. The sewerage disposal works consists of two  
detritus tanks, six settling tanks and fourteen sludge beds. These  
were constructed in 1941.

The responsibility for the main sewer and sewerage works is  
held by the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

Twenty-five new houses were connected to the sewerage  
system during the year.

Rivers and Streams—One main stream—Wrongway Brook—  
runs through the district, entering from the Fylde Rural District  
in a culvert under the railway and discharging into Carr Brook  
and finally into Dow Brook. This stream forms a portion of the  
Urban District boundary on the easterly side of the town, and  
provides most of the natural drainage for the district.

A second stream, commencing at the Bye-Pass end of Orders  
Lane, runs down Orders Lane, under Poulton Street and Mill  
Street in a brick culvert, and discharges into Carr Brook at the  
north-easterly corner of the Flax Mill land.

Water Supply—Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have supplies available from this source and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. No complaints were received concerning the water supply.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of Complaints Received—283 complaints were received during the year, of which many were from Council houses for repairs requiring attention. 1,172 visits were made to premises in connection with this work. 283 nuisances were discovered, of which 260 were abated, leaving 17 to carry forward to 1961. 19 informal notices were served during the year, whilst the number of statutory notices served after reports being made to the Committee was 6. In the main, most complaints were dealt with after consultation with the landlord concerned. In spite of the high cost of maintenance and low rentals, property is reasonably well maintained. In most cases the tenants are reasonable and do most internal repairs themselves. Advantage is being taken to improve old property under the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959.

## DISINFESTATIONS

Four houses were disinfested during 1960. The methods of treatment are by D.D.T. spray and/or D.D.T. or similar type of smoke generator. In the case of bugs a combination of the two methods—spraying first, followed by smoke generators—has proved most effective. Free issues of insect powder are available, and no charge is made for disinfestation in the area of private dwelling houses.

## DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Two houses were visited for investigation in connection with infectious diseases and instructions were given and disinfectant supplied to the householders for disinfection of premises. There was no other demand for disinfection. Library books were collected from houses where infectious diseases occurred and were disinfected before return to the Library.

## SCHOOLS

The schools were inspected on occasion and were satisfactory apart from minor repairs. All are supplied with water by the Fylde Water Board and all have water closets connected to the sewer.



## COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or offensive trades within the district.

## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There was one caravan site licenced during 1960, for summer use only.

## CLEAN AIR ACT

The factories in the district were visited and consultations made with the boilermen in an attempt to improve the smoke nuisance. Some complaints were received from time to time and 2 observations were taken on chimneys. Some improvement was made after informal notifications to the firms concerned. No legal actions were taken.

## OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

During the year no further applications from persons to be registered as Dealers in Old Metals under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were received.

Certificates for means of escape in case of fire are now given by Lancashire County Council Fire Department.

## HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council carried out all refuse collection and disposal. They have one fore and aft tipper type wagon engaged regularly on this work. A tractor and trailer is used part time on the tip.

Disposal is carried out at Carr Lane tip. The soil is first removed by dragline and then replaced on top as the tip proceeds. Some 2 acres of reclaimed land are let to a farmer and several successful crops have been grown. The old destructor was retained in use for burning unsound meat, unsalvageable paper and factory wastes.

The number of men engaged on the work is as follows :—

- 4 Ashbinmen.
- 1 Salvage Baler—Full time.
- 1 Driver.
- 1 Tractor Driver—Part time.

No serious labour difficulties have been met with but as last year the workmen are becoming older, two or three have asked for lighter work. Sickness absence during the past year was slight but the incidence may rise especially amongst the older men and cannot be overlooked. It is a fallacy to consider any Council work as light work—a popular concept. The lifting of heavy dustbins, kerbs, flags, excavating and gardening are not particularly light work.

Salvage collection was maintained and the bonus scheme for the men continued. All waste paper was sent to Thames Board Mills Ltd., under contract. Loose tins continued to be baled but disposal was difficult and prices were low.

The total income during the year from the sale of salvage was £1,056.

The tonnage salvaged was as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Waste Paper (all grades)	115 ...	1 ...	1 ...	7
Rags .....	10 ...	12 ...	1 ...	0
Cast Iron, Scrap Metal, etc. ....	0 ...	18 ...	3 ...	26
	—	—	—	—
	126	11	3	5
	—	—	—	—

The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was £4,837, equal to a 1/11¼ rate.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

Visits were made to premises where foodstuffs were handled or sold.

The number of visits made to food premises during the year, including the slaughterhouse, was 154.

Some minor improvements have been made to food premises, most of which were carried out as a result of informal action. This work is proceeding. Follow-up visits have been made.

The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

25lbs. Corned Beef, 16lbs. Forerib of Beef, 36lbs. Sirloin, 28lbs. Boiled Ham, 3lbs. Butter, 5½lbs. Boiling Bacon, 10lbs. Ox Tongue.

One slaughterhouse is in operation in the district. All meat is inspected and the premises are satisfactory. The owners of this slaughterhouse have been most co-operative and improvements are being made from time to time.

Carcases inspected and condemned were as follows:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .....	200	1	8	632	329
Number inspected .....	200	1	8	632	329
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cystercerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	44	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	22	—	—	—	.33
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	2	—	—	—	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	1	—	—	—	1
Cysticercosis:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat condemned (including offal) was 517lbs.

Milk supply and distribution—There is one large dairy and pasteurising plant in the town supplying milk to the surrounding districts. The supervision of this plant is done by the Lancashire County Council. The number of registered dealers is as follows:—

Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk .....	15
Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk Pasteurised ...	13
Licensed to sell Sterilised Milk .....	12
Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk Farm Bottled	13

No complaints were received in regard to the milk supply.

Only “specially designated” milk (that is, pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin tested milk) can now be sold in Kirkham under the provisions of The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1955, which came into force on the 6th December, 1955.



Ice Cream—There was one registration for the manufacture of ice cream. The premises have been inspected and always found to be well run and maintained. Thirty dealers are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. The general standard of vehicles and equipment is high. No complaints were received in regard to ice cream.

Made-up Foods, Potted Meats, etc.—Four premises are registered to manufacture made-up meat products. A good standard of cleanliness was maintained.

Food sampling by the County Council—Thirty-seven samples were taken by County Inspectors during the year, comprising :—

35 Milk (4 of which were Channel Islands Milk), 1 Ice Cream, 1 Mineral Water.

The County Analyst gave an adverse report on one informal sample of milk, the freezing point of which indicated the presence of 0.1% of extraneous water. The vendor of this sample of milk was cautioned and further samples were obtained.

## SHOPS AND OFFICES

Two visits were made in connection with the Shops Acts.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### (1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical power ...	1	—	—
Factories without Mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) .....	—	—	—
Total .....	1	—	—

### (2) DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) .....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) .....	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient .....	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective .....	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—
Other Offences .....	—	—	—	—
Total .....	1	1	—	—

## RAG-FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Three premises are registered under the above Act. No samples were taken. The amount of this material used is very small.

## RODENT CONTROL

Twelve properties infested by rats or mice were treated during the year by the Rodent Operator. This man has had Ministry training in modern methods and has had much success. The standard Ministry methods are used. The sewers were treated and twenty takes recorded. The amount of sewer infestation appears to be small.

## PETROLEUM ACTS

Fifteen premises are licensed to store petroleum and one to store cellulose. In every case the petroleum is stored in underground tanks. The total storage capacity is 34,110 gallons. No notices were served under these Acts, and one new premises was licensed.

## HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books .....	1,464
Number of new houses erected during the year :	
(a) By the Local Authority .....	0
(b) By other bodies or persons .....	7
Number of houses demolished during the year .....	0
Number of houses closed during the year .....	1
Number of persons displaced .....	2
Number of discretionary grant applications received during the year .....	13
Number of houses in which improvement works were completed during the year .....	16
Number of standard grant applications received during the year .....	15
Number of houses at which standard grant works were completed during the year .....	12

Housing Conditions—The general housing conditions are fair, the houses being mostly small to medium sized of both parlour and non-parlour type. There is a considerable proportion of old property in the district, some of which has been scheduled for demolition, whilst the remainder is suitable for improvement. Some advantage has been taken of facilities offered by the Council to improve property by means of Improvement Grants.

Although many of the old houses are of poor external appearance, they are mainly well kept and the internal condition is good. In the main tenants show great pride in their houses.

Suitable accommodation for old persons is still required but the Council are now contemplating a scheme for dealing with same. The Council are not at present contemplating building any houses for general need.



There are still a number of applicants for Council Houses but very few are really bad cases and it is hoped that the worst cases will be dealt with by normal turn over of existing houses.

The number of private houses being erected is satisfactory. Negotiations are taking place for land purchase and development for a fairly heavy building programme by private builders. Kirkham is fast becoming a dormitory town between neighbours Blackpool and Preston, probably accounted for by the two large industrial concerns nearby. Indications are that very shortly there will be no building land available for private dwellings.

There are some houses still sub-standard but where it is felt that the houses could be improved, landlords and owner-occupiers are encouraged to apply for improvement grants. The results of these are excellent and have made first-class houses. There are still many houses suitable for improvement and it is hoped that further advantage will be taken of this provision. Applicants are given full advice and help from the Department.

The Council have continued to give every opportunity to prospective buyers by operating the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts and by standing as guarantors for persons buying through Building Societies.

The Department is also responsible for the maintenance and cleansing of highways, supervision of new buildings, street lighting, parks, baths and recreation grounds. The Department will endeavour to proceed with the making-up of all unmade streets as soon as the Council authorise same.

A growing problem in the Department is that of Housing Management, there being a total of almost 300 houses to be managed. As the houses become older the repairs must increase and inspections, orders, accounts, etc., for these houses are responsible for occupying an ever increasing amount of my staff's time.

## STAFF

My thanks are expressed for the efficient service rendered by my staff—Mr. N. Swift, the Clerk in the Department, and Mr. B. D. Rogerson, the Pupil Public Health Inspector—and for the excellent and willing co-operation from other members of the staff, the Foreman, and all workmen.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. HALL.





